

REMARKS

The Office Action, mailed November 21, 2006, considered and rejected claim 1-39 and 41. Claims 1-39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kucharewski* (U.S. Publ. No. 2004/0199581).¹

By this paper, claims 1, 9, 20, 34 and 37 have been amended, claim 42 added, and no claims have been cancelled.² Accordingly, following this paper, claims 1-39, 41 and 42 are pending, of which claims 1 20, 34 and 37 are the only independent claims at issue.

The claimed embodiments of the present invention are directed to a methods and computer program products for allowing a variety of applications to initiate communication with a contact by utilizing a centralized store of contact information. As recited in independent claim 1, for example, a plurality of contacts are created with contact information that can be utilized by the various applications to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts, and the information is stored in a centralized contact store accessible to a computing system. A contact interface is also provided which displays contact information to a user, the contact interface also being configured to launch at least one of the applications to initiate network communication with the contact. An application is launched in response to user selection and the application may then receive access to a contact and its corresponding contact information through the contact interface or one or more other interfaces. The ability of the applications to then retrieve the contact information and utilize the information to initiate network communication with the contact is then enabled.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a computer program product which includes computer-executable instructions for implementing a method corresponding to the method of claim 1. Independent claims 34 and 37 are directed to a method and computer program product, respectively, for implementing a similar method in which contact information is modified and updated on an application specific database.

While *Kucharewski* generally relates to methods and systems for adding contacts to groups of contacts and establishing communication with those groups of contacts, it fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. For example, among other things, it fails to disclose or suggest a contact interface which displays contact information of a contact and which is

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, by way of example and not limitation, in the disclosure found in paragraphs 115, 116 and 127-134, as well as in Figures 5-7 and 9 of Applicant's originally filed application.

configured to launch an application which then initiates communication with the contact, as recited in combination with the other claim elements. In fact, it appears that *Kucharewski* discloses the opposite in that it discloses using the communication application to obtain the contact information, such that the application used to communicate with a contact is launched before the contact information is displayed to the user.

In particular, *Kucharewski* discloses that a single list of contacts is created and stored in a central repository from which one or more communication applications can access the information to communicate with a listed contact. (§§ 2-4, 24, 44). The contacts may be grouped as people lists which identify a collection of people to whom a message may be sent, and the people lists may also be stored in the central repository for access by multiple applications. (§§ 49, 50).

To use a people list when sending the message, "[e]ach of the applications may access the central repository of people lists when addressing a message." (§ 51). In particular, a selection interface is displayed by the applications to enable a specification of the recipient of a message sent by the particular application. (§ 66). In this manner, one or more people or people lists are chosen as a recipient and the message, and the corresponding information about the selected contact(s) is placed within the details field of the message to be sent. (§ 68). The message can then be sent to the selected contact or, in the case of a people list, to each of the people identified in the people list. (§ 51). In some cases, people in the people list will not all have the same types of information stored, such that some people have more information than others. In the event that the particular application uses a communication technique for which a person in the people list does not have corresponding information, the user of the application will be prompted to enter the necessary information. (§55).

Thus, *Kucharewski* appears to teach a system in which a message is sent by: (1) creating a message within an application; (2) accessing a selection interface from the application to choose a contact or list; (3) addressing the message to the selected contact or list; and (4) sending the message to the selected contact or list members. (§§ 82-84). In other words, *Kucharewski* appears to disclose a system in which the application is first launched and from which the contact information is then accessed. This is in direct contrast to the pending claims identified above in which the contact interface displaying contact information to a user is configured to launch the applications which initiate network communication with a contact, as recited in combination with the other claims. In other words, Applicant's invention includes an interface which launches the application, where *Kucharewski* includes a selection interface which is launched by the application.

Although the foregoing arguments are specifically related to the independent claims it will be appreciated that, for at least the foregoing reasons, all of the other rejections and assertions of record

with respect to the dependent claims are now moot, particularly when considering the combination with elements recited in the corresponding independent claims.³ Therefore, the dependent claims need not be addressed individually.⁴

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 1-39, 41 and 42 are neither anticipated by nor made obvious in view of the cited art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (801) 533-9800.

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Respectfully submitted,



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³ It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicants specifically request that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

⁴ Nevertheless, and by way of example and not limitation, Applicant notes that *Kucharewski* also fails to disclose a method as recited in claim 42, in which the contact interface lists a plurality of actions which can be taken to establish network communication, particularly when those actions are filtered based on available contact information such that sufficient contact information exists to take each listed action. As reflected above, *Kucharewski* appears to disclose a system in which a user selects a contact, but the contact interface does not list actions for establishing communication. Moreover, *Kucharewski* expressly discloses that action can be taken on a contact for which sufficient contact information does not exist, such that the application must request additional information from the user to complete the action.